

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A terminal lock system for verifying that the user of a terminal device is a person with the legitimate right to use the terminal device for thereby protecting the terminal device against unauthorized use by a third party, comprising:

_____ a key device which is portable, said key device having radio communication means for performing short-range radio communications; and

_____ a terminal-associated device for requesting a connection to said key device through the short-range radio communications, and inhibiting the terminal device combined with said terminal-associated device from being used if information of the key device which is confirmed as being connected to said terminal-associated device does not agree with information registered in the terminal-associated device, or

_____ if said terminal-associated device is not confirmed as being connected to the key device through the short-range radio communications, and

~~A terminal lock system according to claim 1,~~ wherein said key device registers information of said terminal-associated device in advance therein, and said key device connects to said terminal-associated device through the short-range radio communications only when the information registered in the terminal-associated device which has requested a connection to said key device and the information registered in said key device agree with each other.

4. (Original) A terminal lock system according to claim 3, wherein said key device starts the short-range radio communications with said terminal-associated device only when a predetermined action is made thereon.

5-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method of locking a terminal device for verifying that the user of the terminal device is a person with the legitimate right to use the terminal device for thereby protecting the terminal device against unauthorized use by a third party, comprising the steps of:
registering information of a key device which is portable in a terminal-associated device combined with the terminal device, said key device having radio communication means for performing short-range radio communications;
requesting a connection to said key device through the short-range radio communications from said terminal-associated device;
inhibiting the terminal device combined with said terminal-associated device from being used if information of the key device, which is confirmed as being connected to said terminal-associated device, does not agree with information registered in the terminal-associated device, or if said terminal-associated device is not confirmed as being connected to the key device through the short-range radio communications;

~~A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:~~

connecting said key device to said terminal-associated device through the short-range radio communications only when the information registered in the terminal-associated device which has requested a connection to said key device and the information registered in said key device agree with each other.

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8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said key device starts the short-range radio communications with said terminal-associated device only when a predetermined action is made thereon.